



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## NASS TO FOCUS ON 2011 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION IN SEPTEMBER

Concord, NH – There was no shortage of challenges for U.S. farmers this year as historical weather patterns brought unpredictable growing conditions to many parts of the country. Now with the harvest of small grains in Maine nearing completion for the 2011 growing season, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will measure U.S. farmers' final production of those grains, including wheat, oats, barley and rye.

During the first two weeks of September, NASS will contact more than 200 producers in Maine as part of the September Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey. The information gathered will provide the basis for official USDA estimates of 2011 acreage, yield and production for small grains.

"This is one of the most telling surveys NASS conducts each year," explained Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. "Not only will we collect final data on 2011 small grains production, but we'll also gather information about the quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on farms across the State."

"The data from the September Agricultural Survey will benefit farmers by providing them timely, accurate and useful information to evaluate the outcome of the growing season and to help make critical year-end business decisions," added Keough.

NASS will contact selected Maine producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on their 2011 production and on-farm stocks of oats and barley. As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law.

"NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only State- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," Keough said.

Survey results will be published in several reports, including the annual *Small Grains* summary and the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on September 30. These and all NASS reports are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information call the NASS New England Field Office at 1-800-642-9571.

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